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Petersburgh residents frustrated by gov't response to PFOA contamination

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PETERSBURGH -- It's been nearly 8 months since the contaminant PFOA was found Petersburg's water.

"It's still exposure that's not necessary they need to fix it," said Petersburg resident Daisy Manchester.

Since then, town supervisor Alan Webster said residents have become increasingly frustrated by a slow response from state and federal officials as well as the company blamed for the contamination, Taconic Plastics.

"There's a high level of frustration, which is understandable," Webster said. "And you can hear that being voiced tonight in the concerns of the people," he said.

Daisy Manchester and others at a town meeting at the Petersburg Veterans Memorial Community Center Friday night said water filtration systems installed on private wells months ago aren't being maintained by the state and a company contracted by Taconic Plastics.

New filters to be online by December in Hoosick Falls, N.Y.: A new filtration system and proposed water line extensions are separate efforts

By Edward Damon

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Bennington Banner

HOOSICK FALLS, N.Y. >> Two new "permanant" filters at the village's water treatment plant will be online by the winter, officials say.

The new system will replace the "temporary" filters installed at the plant in February. Mayor David Borge said the new system, which is larger than the temporary system, is expected to be done by the end of December.

Crews are now in the process of enclosing the two metal tanks, a process which Borge said will most likely be done next week.

Saint-Gobain Corporation already funded a "temporary" granulated activated carbon (GAC) filtration system at the village water treatment plant to remove perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). The filters were rented from Calgon Carbon of Pennsylvania.

Saint-Gobain is also funding the new treatment system and associated upgrades to the water treatment plant, which have been estimated to cost between \$2.5 and \$3 million.

The town and village are waiting to hear back on whether it will receive funding for a water line extension project, an effort that's been described as a longer-term solution. Borge said the municipalities are waiting to hear from the state's Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) by the end of the month.

The state in July committed to paying \$46,000 for a feasibility study on extending municipal water and sewer on state Route 22. The town and village had previously voted to split the cost and engaged with the MRB Group of Rochester.

The grant application and associated documents, including engineering reports, were sent to the EFC on Sept. 2, according to the minutes of a Sept. 12 Hoosick Town Board meeting. Engineers broke the project up into six "phases" that would cover 23 service areas.

Under the first phase, a 12-inch watermain would be built starting at the the village limits near the River Street bridge, and then extend south along River Road (Route 22) to the Hoosick Falls Central School. Another water main would begin at the village limits on High Street (Route 22) and extend north to Hoosick Junction and end in North Hoosick at the intersection of Route 67A.

In addition, Bovie Hill Road and Lester Lane would be served by new 8-inch watermain. Existing watermain on Snow Street and Carr Street to Webster Avenue would be replaced and a new booster station would be built on Rensselaer Street.

The total cost of phase one would be about \$5.3 million. Extending the water line about 8,500 linear feet to the school is estimated to cost about \$1.02 million. A new booster station would cost about \$400,000.

The six-phase project would cost about \$30 million, according to estimates.

Later phases would bring water to the areas of Clay Hill Road, Johnson Hill Road, and Route 67 in North Hoosick.

Phase six would bring water south past the Central School to the Hoosac School, and also along Hill Road (County Road 95) to the intersection of Route 7 and South Street.

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She's worried about her eight-month-old baby, Daniele.

"When it's in your body when you're carrying the child and then when you're feeding the child, his exposure is his whole life now," Manchester said.

Members of the state Health Department, the DEC, as well as the EPA and local officials addressed that issue and other concerns.

DEC Region 4 Director Keith Goertz says it's been tough ironing out the details of the maintenance, which should begin soon.

"I think that it's going to start next week," Goertz said. "Basically the order is going to require Taconic to install systems on any well that's at 70 or greater and then maintain them."

A filtration system is also supposed to be installed on the town's municipal water system.

That's slated to start in November it officials say that timeline could change.

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